

Message Text

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SUBJ: ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

REF ATHENS 400; ATHENS 210; ATHENS 8874, 12/13/74

1. SUMMARY: INDUSTRY MINISTER KONOFAGOS ANNOUNCED ON JAN 16 ESTABLISHMENT NEW GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO COORDINATE AND CONDUCT OIL EXPLORATION AND MENTIONED THAT INTERNATIONAL TENDERS FOR OIL EXPLORATION WOULD BE HELD IN NEAR FUTURE. GOG PLANS TO EXPEDITE LIGNITE DEVELOPMENT AND IS POSTPONING NUCLEAR PROJECT.

2. INDUSTRY MINISTER C. KONOFAGOS ANNOUNCED ON JAN 16 ESTABLISHMENT NEW GOVERNMENT AGENCY UNDER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TO SUPERVISE, COORDINATE AND CONDUCT OIL EXPLORATION. PROFESSOR KYRIAKOS ZACHOS WILL HEAD AS YET UNNAMED AGENCY. IT WILL SOON INITIATE ON-SHORE EXPLORATION IN CAVALLA AREA BY CONTRACTING DRILLING WORK TO FOREIGN FIRM, AND INVITE INTERNATIONAL TENDERS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN THE THERMAIKOS GULF (OFF-SHORE) AND THE CORFU AND LEFKAS AREA (ON-SHORE AND OFF-SHORE).

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3. GOG PLANS EXPEDITE DEVELOPMENT PTOLEMAIS AND MEGALOPOLIS

LIGNITE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR OIL IN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION. PROVEN LIGNITE RESERVES ESTIMATED AT 1 BILLION TONS FOR PTOLEMAIS AND 400 MILLION TONS FOR MEGALOPOLIS. LIGNITE PRODUCTION THESE MINES EXPECTED BE RAISED FROM 1974 LEVEL OF 6.4 MILLION TONS (PTOLEMAIS) AND 4.6 MILLION TONS (MEGALOPOLIS) TO 18.5 MILLION TONS AND 10.3 MILLION TONS, RESPECTIVELY, BY 1980. MAXIMUM ANNUAL PRODUCTION POTENTIAL THESE TWO MINING OPERATIONS PLACED AT 45 MILLION TONS FOR PTOLEMAIS AND 14 MILLION FOR MEGALOPOLIS.

4. ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION WHICH TOTALED 13.5 BILLION KWH IN 1973 IS EXPECTED REACH 21.6 BILLION KWH IN 1980, ASSUMING 8 PERCENT AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE. IN 1973 OIL ACCOUNTED FOR 41 PERCENT, LIGNITE FOR 44 PERCENT AND HYDRO FOR 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION. (NOTE: KONOFAGOS' FIGURES DEVIATE FROM DATA PREVIOUSLY RELEASED BY PPC FOR 1973, VIZ. 36 PERCENT LIGNITE, 47 PERCENT OIL, 17 PERCENT HYDRO). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION IN 1980 WILL BE 24 PERCENT OIL, 60 PERCENT LIGNITE, 16 PERCENT HYDRO.

5. DECISION ON PHILIPPI PROJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM EXPROPRIATION ARABLE LAND OWNED BY 15,000 FARMERS. IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT PEAT DEPOSITS FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION NOT IMPERATIVE PRESENTLY BECAUSE OF AMPLE INDIGENOUS LIGNITE RESERVES.

6. FIRST 600 MW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WILL START OPERATION IN 1985. PLANT SITE AND PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED IN 1976. (COMPETENT PPC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBREP THAT NO NEW POWER PROJECTS WILL BE INITIATED IN 1975 AND THAT CONSULTANCY CONTRACT NEGOTIATED WITH BECHTEL CORPORATION IN CONNECTION WITH GREECE'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WILL NOT BE SIGNED THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, PPC IS INTERESTED IN EMPLOYING BECHTEL EXPERTS ON DAILY REMUNERATION BASIS WITH RESPECT TO PLANT SITE AND DRAFTING OF LICENCING LEGISLATION).
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